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'FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM'

WANDS AT THE READY

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BY SAMANTHA NELSON FOR REDEYE | REDEYE@REDEYECHICAGO.COM » GET MORE SPONTANEOUS EAT, DRINK, DO, IDEAS AT REDEYECHICAGO.COM



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SATURDAY

43 28

Temp drop



SUNDAY

43 30

Cool, sun

DO

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HALF SERIOUS, HALF RIDICULOUS PREDICTIONS ON WHAT THE NEXT FOUR 'FANTASTIC BEASTS' MOVIES MIGHT BRING

By Elise De Los Santos | REDEYE

Guys, we're in this for the long haul. Remember when the "Fantastic Beasts" movie was first announced as a single film? Then it became a trilogy? Then a five-parter?

J.K. Rowling raised some eyebrows as the series grew in size and scope, but if anyone can create a whole new world out of a tiny fake textbook, it's Queen Rowling. She is going all-in on this ... er, beast, and we are here for it.

But just in case she needs some inspiration (doubtful), here are some suggestions of what the remaining four movies could be about.

@ELISEKDELO | EKDELOSSANTOS@REDEYECICAGO.COM

2 Fantastic Beasts and Oh, I Think I See One There

Rowling has confirmed on Twitter that the gang goes to Paris in Movie 2, so perhaps a visit to Beauxbatons is in order. But while it would be fine to see another wizarding school and to chase some beasts with fancy French names, I'm offering up this highly controversial suggestion: Beauty and the Beast crossover/reinterpretation. Sometime in the early 1930s, after hearing rumors about a strange creature in the rural French countryside, Newt Scamander (Eddie Redmayne) goes to investigate and winds up at the Beast's castle while Belle (Emma Watson, obviously) is being held captive inside. Newt realizes the Beast has just been the victim of a bad Transfiguration spell gone wrong and reverses its effects, engineering Belle and the Beast's happily ever after.

After-credits scene

Turns out the witch who cast the spell on the Beast was really Grindelwald, to remind you he's the bad guy in this tale.

3 Fantastic Beasts and Nope, I Did Not Sign Up For This

In the late 1930s, Newt's adventures bring him to Northern and Eastern Europe. Not only does this mean we get to see Durmstrang and visit wandmaker Gregorovitch (Grindelwald stole the Elder Wand from him, remember?), but it will also allow Rowling to highlight the parallels between Grindelwald's rise to power and Germany's rise to power in the lead-up to World War II. The third movie is prime time for some Time-Turner nonsense to make a cool blows-your-mind final sequence.

After-credits scene

The Time-Turner is the one that Hermione uses in "Prisoner of Azkaban."

4 Fantastic Beasts and What was the Premise of This Series, Again?

In the early 1940s, Newt travels to the jungles of Borneo in Southeast Asia under the premise of trying to find an Acromantula in its native habitat but actually is going behind enemy lines to infiltrate a group of Grindelwald supporters. Naturally, there are shenanigans in trying to get to Borneo, and some cross-cultural confusion that hopefully will be comical and not at all racist or insensitive. Probably a character we've come to know and love will die near the end, because Rowling likes breaking our hearts like that.

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS NEWT SCAMANDER?

We're plotting our predictions of where "Fantastic Beasts" protagonist Newt Scamander will go next. Please don't hate us if (when) we're wrong.



After-credits scene

A random person in Newt's entourage snags an Acromantula egg and sells it to young Hagrid.

5 Fantastic Beasts and God, I Hope This Doesn't Become like the 'Fast and Furious' Franchise

Just kidding, if Rowling did expand the series even further, we'd still watch them. In 1945, Dumbledore and Grindelwald have their final battle, which hopefully will not require the destruction of an entire city. It's difficult to imagine Newt as anything but a bystander,

but maybe it'll turn out he's been collecting and training various beasts all these years, and they'll help the war effort in some way.

After-credits scene

Newt (still played by Redmayne, who truly might be old at this point) is writing an updated intro for the 34th edition of "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them" in 2025. Then he goes to visit his grandson Rolf and granddaughter-in-law Luna, nee Lovegood, and his great-grandchildren. Harry and Ginny Potter and Ron and Hermione Weasley happen to be visiting at the same time, offering the chance for some brief and pricey cameos.

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the chatter JOIN THE CONVERSATION

GETTYIMAGES

Can I hook up with my friend?



Anna Pulley

@annapulley
redeye@redeye
chicago.com

Dear Anna,
I am interested in having sex with one of my friends. Usually I need some kind of emotional attachment for sex, so this works out. The problem is that the attachment between us could be compared to the best attachment on the vacuum cleaner— you know, the one that never comes off the hose because you don't need any of the others. I don't want our friendship to be ruined because I value it so much, but I dig it, you know? Is it worth it? Is there any amount of open communication that can make it OK?
—Oh Not Sure Why I Too Can't Have 'em?

Dear ON SWITCH,

A wise person once said, “You don't get to choose your relatives, but you do get to choose the friends you want to chitty chitty bang bang.” (It was me.) At a time when the country is divided and in utter turmoil and panic, consoling oneself by engaging in casual sex with one's friends honestly seems like a fine coping mechanism. Along with, you know, mobilizing and donating to social justice orgs and ugly-crying.

But on to the nitty-gritty of the chitty chitty: If you want to bang your friend, you'd be wise to establish a few ground rules first. But, Anna, isn't rule-making the death knell of hot, spontaneous sex? Yes. But not everyone can mime their way to great sex, like me.

You don't need to sign a contract or waiver or anything (except for the snorkeling equipment), but you do need to have an idea of

what you both want, to make sure you don't have wildly different ideas of what casual hookups can mean. For instance, is this a one-time deal, a semi-regular late-night booty call or whenever you're both drunk eBaying late at night and lonely?

Despite all the hullabaloo about “cuddle hormones” and “Is hookup culture ruining relationships?”, we as a species are more than capable of engaging in casual, healthy sexual relationships with people we mutually respect, unlike those slutty bonobos, who never call you back. As long as we are honest about our intentions and adjust our realities accordingly.

Other friendly sex perks: You know the person already and don't have to go through the ritual small talk of pretending to be interested in his or her anime collection. Also, since you trust your friend, you're more likely to be able to articulate what you want in bed, thus sidestepping the potentially awkward conversation about your wall of nipple clamps.

Just be honest with yourself. If sex to you means commitment or picking out matching tracksuits, you might want to rethink fluid exchange as the next relationship step. If, however, sex to you is just a more pleasant way of getting through the latest Will Ferrell movie, then by all means, have at it. Be as upfront as you can, and if you notice bad feelings starting to surface, then have the fortitude to pull back, talk about it and be willing to return to platonic friendship.

Besides, what are friends for, really, if not to tell you when you have spinach in your teeth and to give you an occasional reach around?

ANNA PULLEY IS A REDEYE CONTRIBUTOR. WANT TO ASK ANNA AN ANONYMOUS QUESTION ABOUT LOVE, SEX OR DATING? EMAIL YOUR QUANDARY TO REDEYEDATING@GMAIL.COM



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sports

Alshon Jeffery
APBEARS AT
N.Y. GIANTS
Noon Sunday, FoxREPUTATIONS
AT STAKE1 FAILED DRUG TEST CAN
CHANGE THE COURSE OF
AN NFL PLAYER'S CAREER**By Chris Sosa** | REDEYE*Editor's note: Each week during the NFL season, former Bears defensive lineman Alex Brown shares his football wisdom with RedEye. Responses have been edited for length and clarity.***Alex Brown**

hancing substances.

Alex Brown played nine years in the NFL, including eight with the Bears. He was never suspended for drug violations himself, but he has strong takes on how those situations are handled and what it means when players fail those tests.

On what players can do to avoid banned substances.

You want to get anything looked at [by the NFL] to make sure that it's OK. I sent in something and what I got back was that "this looks fine to us, but remember, you're responsible for whatever you put in your body." I think that's the dumbest thing in the world, honestly. Because it's good or it's not, you tell me. I'm asking you, I'm going through the things that I need to do to make

Alshon Jeffery, the Bears' best receiver and one of their best players overall, this week was suspended four games for violating the NFL's policy on performance-enhancing substances.

sure that I'm not breaking the rules, but then if I take something you told me looks good [and is not], then you're going to come back and suspend me for four games?

I'm not saying that's what happened in Alshon's case. All I'm saying is that's what I've experienced and I think that is awful. That's an awful way to do something when we're talking about a player's reputation.

On who should bear responsibility.

If a player knows they're trying to cheat and they get busted, OK, fine. But if a player's not [trying to cheat] and honestly does not know because the labels say this and nothing on the label gave him that red flag, then that should fall on the company because it's misleading and the players don't know that.

If you're gonna cheat, then you're gonna cheat to get better. Some of this stuff that you're popping guys with, that's not what you'd use if you wanted to cheat. But because this [substance] is on that list, everything on that list gives fans and people outside the NFL that notion of "he's a cheater."

On substances that are more accessible to NFL players than they are to the public, and how players recover from injuries.

I think it blows people's minds what we actually go through to be able to play. You get a shot in the butt before the game because my back is hurting. You come back at halftime

and you get another one because I'm trying to get through this game feeling like I'm in one piece, understanding that probably on Monday I'm going to feel like I'm broken in half because I'm going to worry about Monday when it gets here. That's the mentality. [Brian Urlacher took] Toradol, you take painkillers, anything that relieves the pain, then you take a lot of anti-inflammatories. You go through your whole treatment program, make sure you're icing and all that stuff. But then you gotta practice too. It's tough, man.

I wouldn't tell anybody not to [play in the NFL]. This isn't for everybody. But the people that have done it, regardless of what situation they're in now, I highly doubt that anyone would say, "I wouldn't do it all over again." I know I wouldn't [say that].

On whether Jeffery's suspension will affect whether the Bears re-sign him.

I think it's going to come down to price anyway. He wants \$14 million a year or \$40 million guaranteed, and I think that [suspension] hurts that number. But for me, I wasn't on board with paying that much in the first place. Is he a good receiver? Yes. But there are a lot of things that he can't do that I'd like for my No. 1 receiver to do. Nobody's afraid of his speed, so they sit on his routes.

CATCH ALEX BROWN BEFORE AND AFTER EVERY BEARS GAME EXCLUSIVELY ON COMCAST SPORTSNET CHICAGO'S "BEARS PREGAME LIVE" AND "BEARS POSTGAME LIVE." @REDEYESPORTSCHI | CHSOSA@REDEYETCHICAGO.COM



AP FILE

K.B. = MVP

By Colleen Kane | CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Two seasons into his major-league career, Kris Bryant has two All-Star selections, a Rookie of the Year award and a World Series championship to his name.

On Thursday, the 24-year-old Cubs star added another major honor to the list: National League MVP.

Bryant topped Nationals second baseman Daniel Murphy and Dodgers shortstop Corey Seager in a vote by the Baseball Writers' Association of America.

Bryant received 29 of 30 first-place votes and 415 points. Murphy had one first-place vote and 245 points, and Seager finished with 240 points.

Angels center fielder Mike Trout was voted the American League MVP over Red Sox right fielder Mookie Betts and Astros second baseman Jose Altuve.

Writers vote for the award before the start of the postseason, and Bryant was among the NL leaders in several categories during the regular season, including finishing first with 121 runs scored.

He was third with 39 home runs and 334 total bases and fourth with a .554 slugging percentage and a .939 OPS. He also finished with a .292 average and 102 RBIs and contributed to the Cubs' versatility by playing in the outfield and at third base.

Along the way, he turned in record-setting and jaw-dropping single-game performances too.

On June 27 in Cincinnati, he went 5-for-5 with three home runs, two doubles and six RBIs. He set a franchise record with 16 total bases and became the first player in major-league history with three homers and two doubles in a game.

"It's definitely the best game of my whole life," Bryant said after the June 27 game. "But to hear that, with so many good players in this game, I just feel so fortunate and so thankful for this opportunity to play on a stage like this every day."

Bryant becomes the first Cubs player to win the award since Sammy Sosa in 1998.

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By Chris Sosa | REDEYE



GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

IF YOU'VE READ THE "HARRY POTTER" BOOKS

or seen the movies, you know Quidditch is a sport played by wizards and witches that involves flying around on broomsticks.

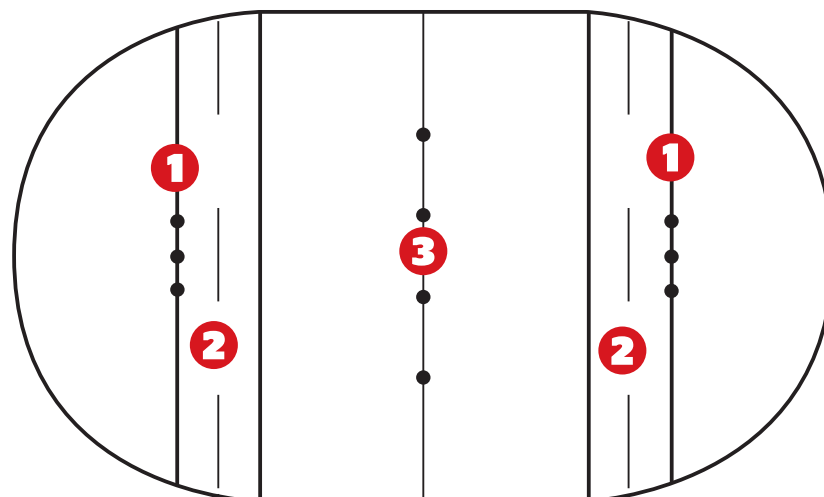
In 2005, students at Middlebury College in Vermont invented the real-life or "Muggle" version, which resembles a combination of basketball and rugby with elements of hockey mixed in.

The sport is gaining serious momentum; dozens of colleges and hundreds of high schools have teams. There's even a 16-team pro league, Major League Quidditch (Chicago does not have a team as of yet), as well as international competitions.

To make sense of the organized chaos you will see if you ever watch a match, RedEye picked the brains of Matt Coyle and Chloe Streif, co-captains of the Columbia College Quidditch team.

THE PITCH

Quidditch is played on a grass field that is 60 yards long and 36 yards wide. There are three hoops of varying heights on each end of the field. The corners are similar to those of a hockey rink in that they are curved. There are areas designated as keeper zones and penalty boxes.



1 Hoops

2 Keeper zone

3 Ball marks

THE EQUIPMENT

Five balls are in play during Quidditch matches: The Quaffle, which is a **volleyball**; three Bludgers, or **dodgeballs**; and the Snitch, a **tennis ball**. The Quaffle is used to score points, while the Bludgers are used to "knock out" other players temporarily. The Snitch is the ball that must be caught to end the game.

Each player must have a broom between his or her legs at all times. Padding that makes a "knocking sound" when a referee hits it with an object is not allowed. So no football helmets, shoulder pads or anything of the sort. Cups are allowed, as are padded helmets. The brooms cannot be used to contact other players.



THE PLAYERS

1 Keeper (green headband)

Guards the three hoops

"There are multiple ways you can play a Keeper," said Coyle, who plays the position for Columbia. "For example, I have a Keeper on my team who is almost 6 feet tall and has the lankiest legs I've ever seen, so he runs and is almost like a fourth Chaser. Meanwhile, my strategy is to hang back and be a quarterback, call out plays, call out what I see on the pitch, tell people to pick up other Chasers, things like that."

3 Chasers (white headbands)

Try to score points with the Quaffle

"They need to have good stamina and endurance so they can run really fast to get over to the other side of the pitch," Streif said. "They also need to be able to catch the ball very well as well as fake out other Chasers, and have good aim for scoring."

PLUS: THE SNITCH

Each match has one Snitch, a person dressed in yellow who wears a sock with a tennis ball attached to the back of their waistband. To "catch the Snitch," a Seeker has to grab the ball as they would another player's flag in flag football.

The Snitch is a volunteer, and often a player from one of the teams in the match. That person is expected to be impartial in preventing Seekers from grabbing the ball. In tournament play, the Snitch is usually a person who is not on either team competing at the time.

Note: Only Keepers and Chasers can handle the Quaffle. Only Beaters can handle Bludgers. Only Seekers can catch the Snitch.

THE GENDER MAXIMUM RULE

Quidditch, including governing bodies such as U.S. Quidditch, prides itself on being inclusive. To that end, it employs what is known as the gender maximum rule. According to the U.S. Quidditch website, no more than four players per team who identify as the same gender can be on the pitch at a time; that number increases to five when Seekers are in play.

HOW IT'S PLAYED

The team that scores the most points wins. Teams score points in two ways: when the Chasers throw the Quaffle through one of the hoops from either side of the hoop (10 points), and when a team's Seeker catches the Snitch (30 points). The Snitch enters the game at the 18-minute mark of each match. The match ends when the Snitch is caught.

The match starts with the Quaffle and Bludgers at midfield, and on the referee's signal, each team races to get possession.

Once a goal is scored, the Keeper of the team that was just scored on takes possession, and play resumes from there.

Beaters throw Bludgers at opposing players to get "knockouts" or "beats." When that happens, a player who has been "beat" must run to their end of the field, touch one of their hoops and "remount" their broom.

Any player who is holding a ball when they are "beat" must immediately drop the ball.

WHAT TO EXPECT

Whether it's at a college tournament, such as the one Columbia College held Nov. 12, or

2 Beaters (black headbands)

Throw Bludgers to "knock out" opponents

"They're going to be a little better with aiming, especially aiming at moving, smaller targets like feet," said Streif, a Beater for Columbia. "They do a lot of ducking and dodging and also need aggressiveness and awareness. They also have to be able to catch the Bludger so they can avoid being knocked out."

1 Seeker (gold headband)

Try to catch the Golden Snitch

"The Seeker is probably the hardest position to play," Coyle said. "You need to have the endurance of a Chaser and not be discouraged when you get beat because a strategy a lot of teams do is they employ a defensive Seeker to try and get points back. When they do that, it's Seeker on Seeker with a potential Beater to try and stop the opposing Seeker from scoring."

any other organized event, there are common threads in Quidditch matches.

The game is hella physical. Players are allowed to tackle each other, stiff arm and do almost anything to dislodge a Quaffle or Bludger from an opponent or to keep the other team from scoring. You do not have to give up possession of a ball unless you are "beat," however.

"Last year at a tournament we had three or four concussions within three or four games," Coyle said. "... It's a friendly atmosphere, but it's really intense."

Players who commit fouls are sent to a penalty box, sometimes (resulting in power plays). If the infraction is severe enough, players can be ejected.

You won't see robes. At least, the players don't wear them. Even though the sport is based on a fictional wizarding pastime, shorts and jerseys are required. As for the spectators, anything goes with clothing.

Communication is key. "[Good teams have] great communication, they're passing [the Quaffle] back and forth and spinning around other Chasers, and they make it into the hoop without somebody getting beat."

The scores can get up there. Coyle said elite college teams can score in the 150- to 200-point range, while Major League Quidditch matches can see one team score around 300 points.

"Harry Potter" knowledge is not required. "We have players who have never seen or read 'Harry Potter,' some of whom are captains," Coyle said.

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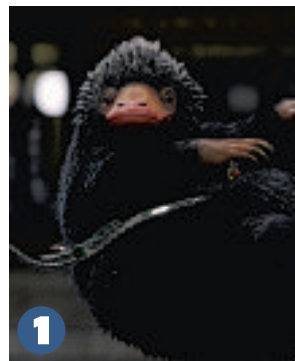
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movies

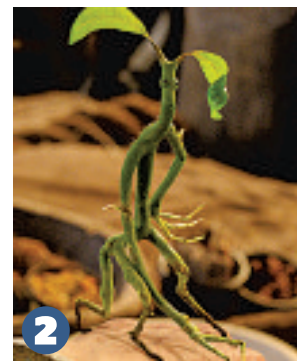


Unleashed

MEET 7 BEASTS FROM
'FANTASTIC BEASTS AND
WHERE TO FIND THEM'



1



2



3



4



5

By Lauren Chval | REDEYE

You may remember *Harry Potter* purchasing “Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them,” a textbook on his first-year list of required supplies. But now the author of that book, Newt Scamander, is getting a movie (or five) of his own, bringing the beasts to life. Here’s what we know about seven of the many beasts in “Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them.”

@LCHVAL | LAURENCHVAL@REDEYETCHICAGO.COM

1 Niffler
You may remember this furry creature from “Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire.” They’re black, rodent-like critters with an affinity for shiny objects. Hagrid introduced nifflers to Harry’s fourth-year Care of Magical Creatures class and let them hunt for Leprechaun gold in piles of dirt. A niffler looks for treasure with its long snout and then stores it in a pouch on its belly.

2 Bowtruckle
A guardian of its tree, a bowtruckle is good at camouflaging in its natural habitat. They’re selective about their trees, which can be used to make wands. A bowtruckle eats insects and has long, sharp fingers, good for picking locks or poking an enemy in the eye. They’re super small, hence Hagrid explaining that he “brought [Harry] here sixteen years ago when [he was] no bigger than a bowtruckle” in the film “Deathly Hallows: Part 1.”

3 Demiguise
The demiguise is particularly difficult to find because it can make itself invisible and tell the future, so you better be super spontaneous if you’re hoping to catch it. It’s an herbivorous, primate-like creature with silky silver hair and big black eyes. It’s peaceful unless provoked, which can happen because its hair is used to weave Invisibility Cloaks.

4 Thunderbird
Closely related to the phoenix, the thunderbird is native to Arizona. The giant birds can sense danger, and their flapping can create storms. One of the houses of the American wizarding school, Ilvermorny, is named after the thunderbird and favors adventurous students.

Swooping Evil
This peculiarly named beast can be dangerous—it has the ability to suck out brains. The blue-and-green-winged swooping evil looks like a cross between a reptile and a butterfly and exists in a cocoon in its resting state. Its venom can be used to erase bad memories.

Occamy
The occamy will grow or shrink to fit the space available to it. It’s a winged creature with a serpent’s body, so it looks like something between a dragon and a bird. It’s fiercely protective of its eggs, which are made of silver, and is aggressive to whoever approaches it.

5 Erumpent
An erumpent is a massive magical beast originating in Africa. It resembles a rhinoceros with a single horn and a thick hide and tail. It can repel many charms and curses, and its horn contains a deadly fluid that can cause pierced objects (or beings) to explode.

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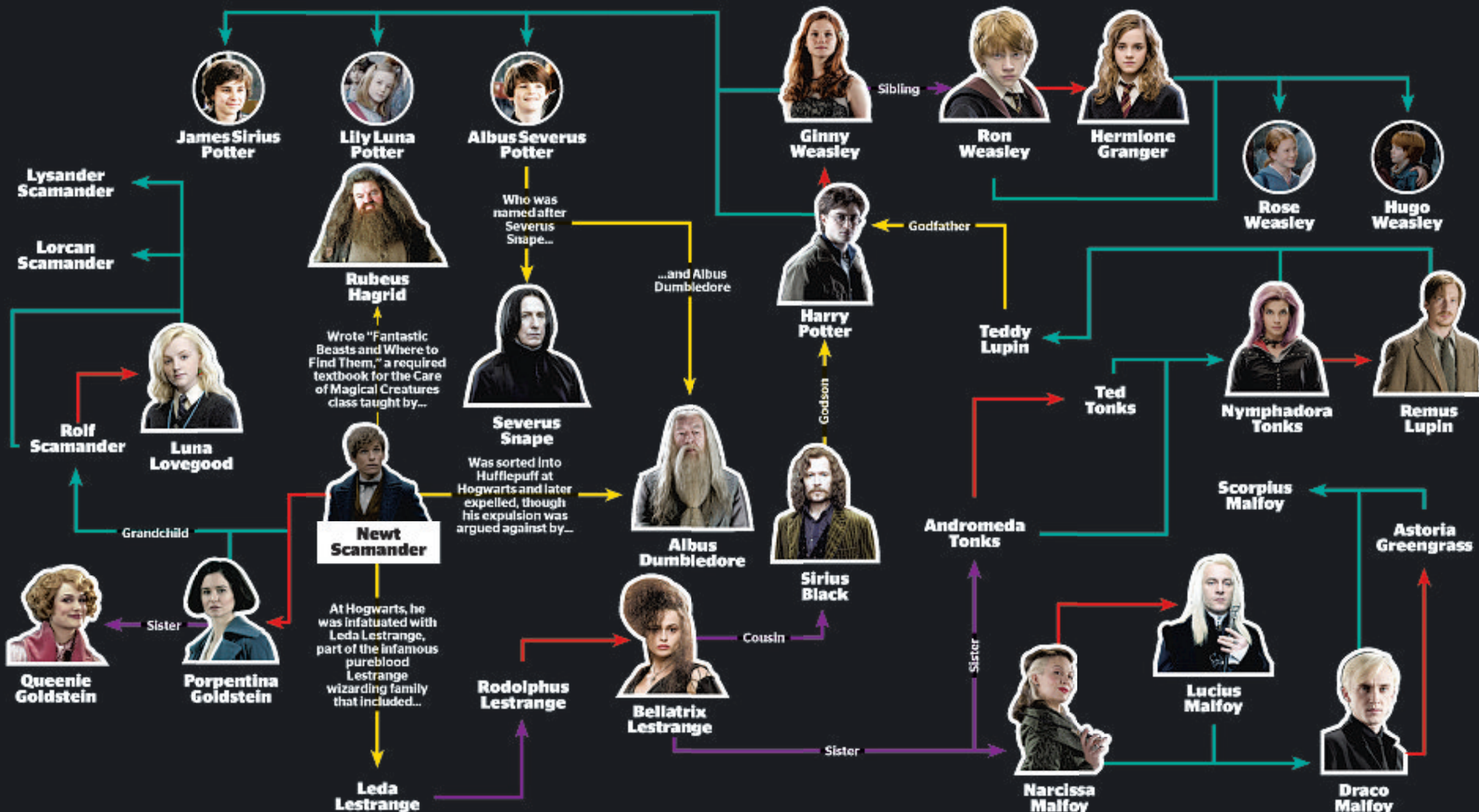
WALKING IN A WIZARD WONDERLAND

By Emma Krupp | FOR REDEYE

Magic may not be real in the broom-flying, spell-casting sense, but J.K. Rowling sure knows how to string together one magical world. From "Fantastic Beasts" to "Harry Potter" and beyond, the web of characters and storylines is nearly endless and sometimes confusing. But never fear! We've looked through every cupboard (under the stairs?) and cranny to uncover the connections between the two stories, starting with "Fantastic Beasts" protagonist Newt Scamander and spanning more than three generations. You may want to cast Muffliato if you haven't seen the movie, though: some mild spoilers ahead.

KEY TO THE WEB

Family Offspring Spouse Other



ILVERMORN SCHOOL OF WITCHCRAFT AND WIZARDRY Break out the sorting hat

By Michelle Lopez | REDEYE
If you take great pride in being a Slytherin or Hufflepuff, you'll be pleased to know you have an American house waiting for you at Ilvermorny School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. Similar to Hogwarts, students are sorted into four different houses. Let's break down what we know about these houses and the beasts they are named after. Once you know what house you'd like to be in, venture over to Pottermore.com and take their sorting quiz.
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MLOPEZ@REDEYEOHICAGO.COM

Thunderbird
Named by: Chadwick Boot
House represents: The soul
House favors: Adventurers
Beast breakdown: A bird-like beast that's related to the phoenix. Can sense danger and create storms as it flies.

Horned Serpent
Named by: Isolt Sayre
House represents: The mind
House favors: Scholars
Beast breakdown: A great horned river serpent with a jewel on its forehead and long teeth.

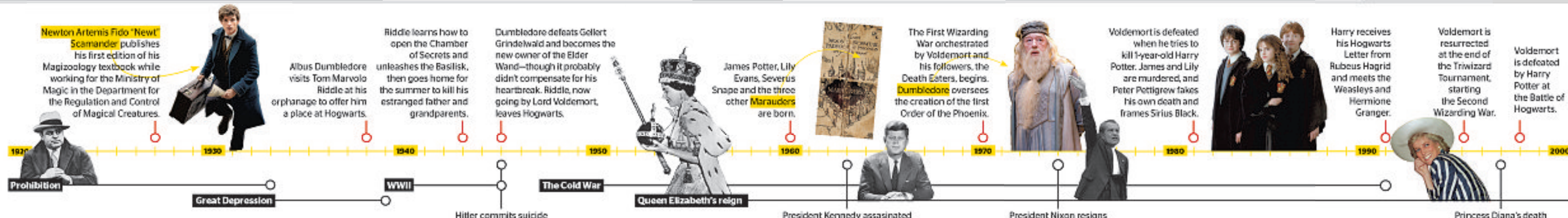
Pukwudgie
Named by: James Steward
House represents: The heart
House favors: Healers
Beast breakdown: A short, gray-faced, large-eared goblin-like beast. Carries poison arrows and enjoys playing tricks on humans.

Wampus
Named by: Webster Boot
House represents: The body
House favors: Warriors
Beast breakdown: A six-legged panther-like beast that is known to be fast, strong and nearly impossible to kill.

WIZARDING AND MUGGLE HISTORY THROUGH THE YEARS

By Shelby Lynn Bostedt | REDEYE
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○ Muggle/No-Maj world ● Wizarding world





WHO'S WHO

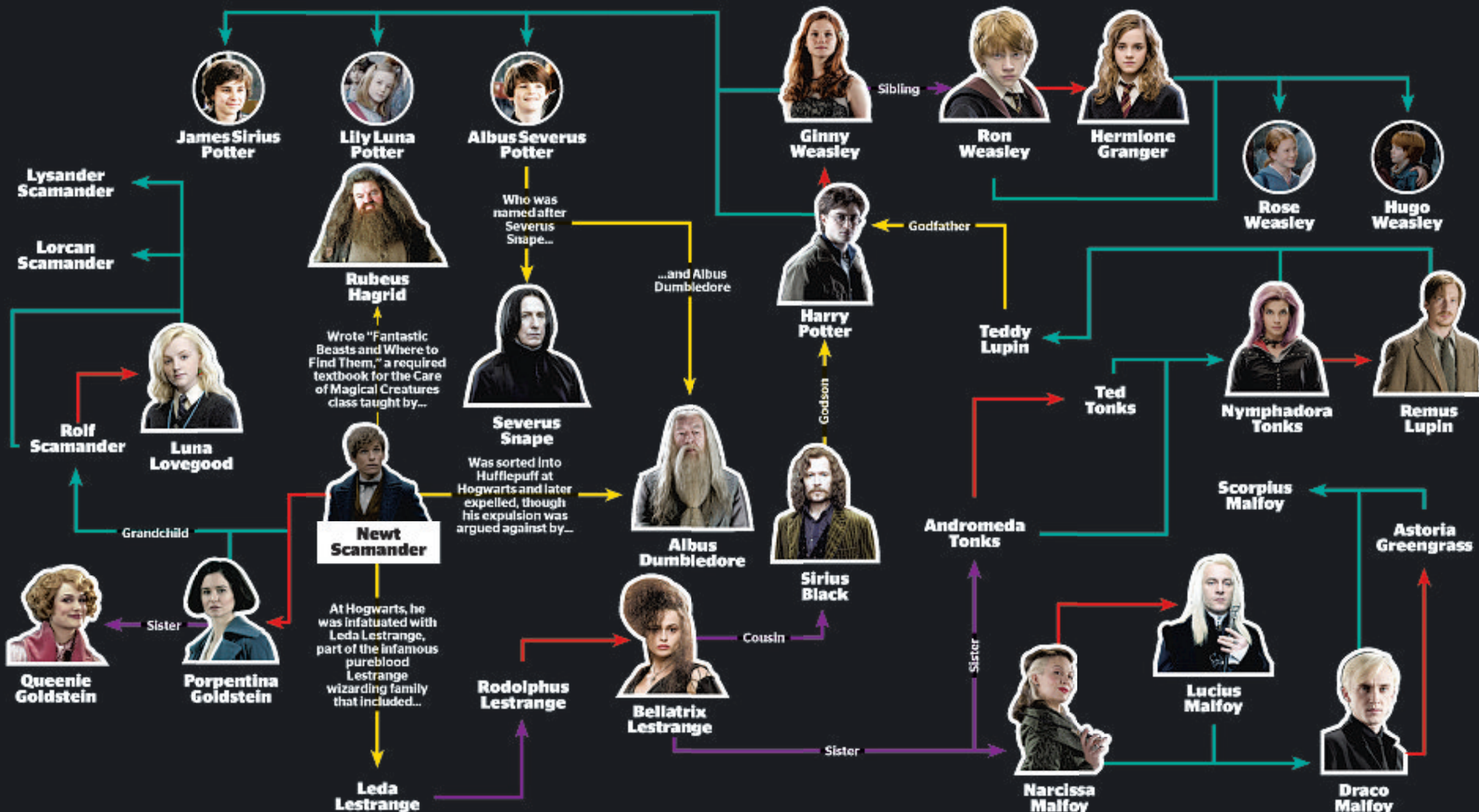
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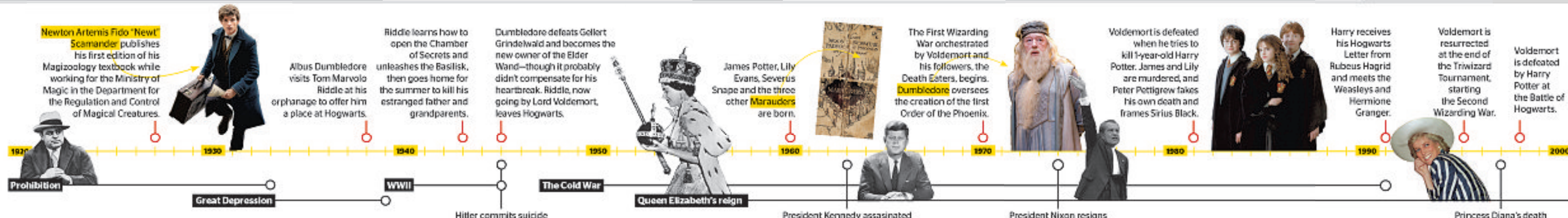
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movies

Quidditch beer pong at Ada Street

GROWN-UP MAGIC

HOW TO 'HARRY POTTER' IN YOUR EVERYDAY ADULT LIFE

By Margaux Henquinet | REDEYE

Thanks to the recent releases of “Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them” and “Harry Potter and the Cursed Child,” we of the Potter Generation have had plenty of excuses lately to let our “Harry Potter” flags fly. It’s almost like the old days, when we stayed up late on school nights to catch the newest movies at midnight and doodled the Deathly Hallows symbol onto our school notebooks. But now that we’re grown up, we don’t need excuses—we can do whatever we want to work “Harry Potter” into our lives in any way we choose. Here are some ways to start.



Find the wizarding world in Chicago

» With all the theaters in this city, there’s usually one or two with a “Harry Potter” show on offer. A current option: “**The Wizengamot: A Harry Potter Debate**” at Under the Gun Theater (956 W. Newport Ave. 773-270-3440), in which

“Harry Potter experts” debate questions such as “Was Albus Dumbledore a good headmaster?” Shows are at 6 p.m. Sundays through Dec. 11; tickets are \$15 at underthegun.theater.

» Emporium recently collaborated with Central State Brewing on **Polyjuice Potion**, a sour ale brewed with plums and elderberries (so much more appealing-sounding than lacewing flies and shredded boomslang skin, right?). Cans sold out in six hours at their release party in October, but you can try it on draft for the next month or so for \$7 a pint at their Wicker Park location (1366 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-697-7922). Just don’t blame us if you turn into someone’s cat.

» If you’ve read the series 394 times and think you know it front to back, put your knowledge to the test at a “Harry Potter” trivia night. Joe’s Bar (940 W. Weed St. 312-337-3486) has events coming up on Dec. 14 (reservations all booked up, but show up before 7:30 p.m. to try



your luck as a walk-in), Jan. 11 and March 29, and Lincoln Hall (2424 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-525-2508) and Fado Irish Pub (100 W. Grand Ave. 312-836-0066) have had them, too.

» Every once in a while, local eateries present opportunities to really geek out in style, so keep your eyes open. Back in October, Ada Street (1664 N. Ada St. 773-697-7069) threw a four-course Halloween Feast with magical cocktails, Quidditch beer pong and more, and City Winery (1200 W. Randolph St. 312-733-9463) hosted “Harry Potter” wine dinners with

four house-themed courses and wine pairings. Sign. Us. Up.

» **Pro tip:** If you hear about a HP event in Chicago and you think you might want to go, buy your ticket as quickly as possible, because there apparently are a lot of eager wizards in this city. Tickets to City Winery’s two dinners were all snatched up during presales, Lincoln Hall totally filled three of its four trivia events, and Ada Street’s original four Halloween Feasts sold out so fast that they added two more, which also sold out. So don’t wait!



TRIBUNE FILE

Relive the series ...

» Need a break from the news? Read “Harry Potter.” Looking for a low-budget way to spend time with friends? “Harry Potter” movie marathon. Expecting the holidays to be filled with long plane rides and stressful family dinners? Sneak a “Harry Potter” paperback into your bag to escape with when you need it. Really, “Harry Potter” works in every situation.

... And pass it on

» As the generation of people who were lucky enough to live through the very beginning of “Harry Potter” fandom, it’s on us to keep it going. Read the books to your nieces or nephews. Gift the gorgeous illustrated “Sorcerer’s Stone” and “Chamber of Secrets” or a full box set at baby showers or first birthday parties. Give little Harrys, Rons and Hermiones extra compliments on Halloween.

Dress the part

» Every “Harry Potter” fan should have a go-to “Harry Potter” T-shirt. You can sometimes find them at Target, Forever 21 or Hot Topic, and the internet has an endless supply. Wear ‘em to movie releases, the gym or anywhere you need a little magic to keep you going.

» Work subtle nods to the Potterverse into your everyday wardrobe. Get a long black coat that makes you feel like you’re wearing a wizard robe. Find a chunky sweater with your initial on it a la Molly Weasley’s famous Christmas sweaters. Heck, get a striped tie in your house colors and wear it to your most important meetings. No one has to know.



‘Harry Potter’ wine dinner at City Winery Chicago

Deck out your living and working spaces

» Stock your kitchen cabinets with literal goblets to drink out of as often as you can. Fire not included.

» Hit up antique stores or resale shops for vintage portraits or tapestries to hang on your walls. Everyone will think you’re fancy, but really you’re just pretending to be hiding secret passages to Hogsmeade.

» Search Etsy for a hand-lettered version of your favorite “Harry Potter” quote, or, if you’ve got the skills, make one yourself, and hang it anywhere you might want a little inspiration. Some of our favorites: Ginny Weasley’s “Anything’s possible if you’ve got enough nerve,” or Dumbledore’s “Happiness can be found in even the darkest of times, if one only remembers to turn on the light.”



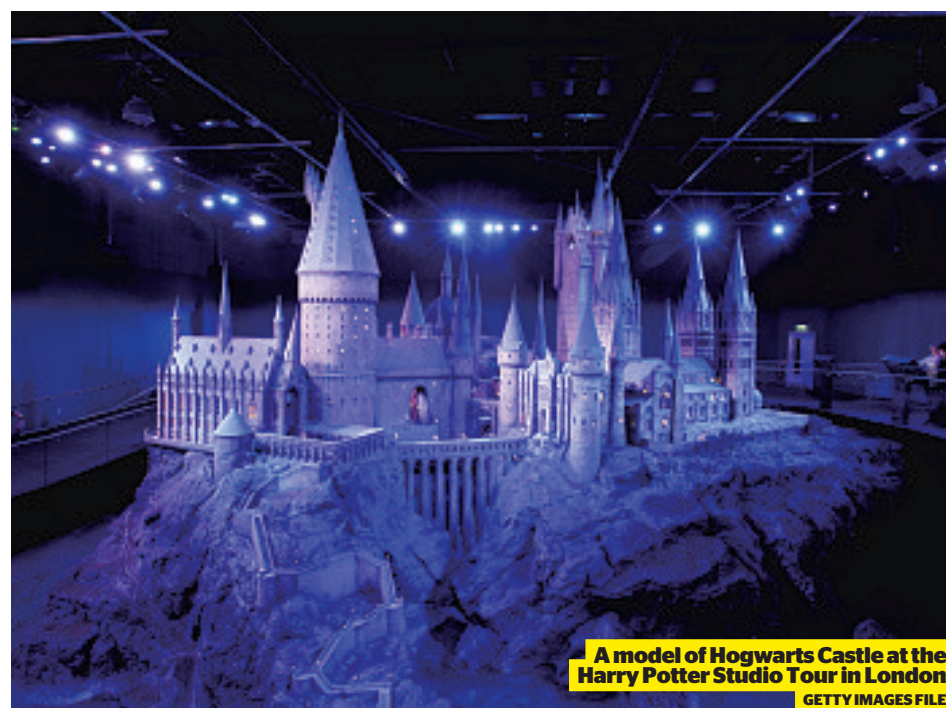
TRIBUNE FILE

Eat and drink like a wizard

» Did you know they still make those Bertie Bott’s Every Flavour Beans, in all their vomit- and earwax-flavored glory? Pick up a few packs to share with unsuspecting friends, but maybe leave them out of the office candy jar. Also available at jellybelly.com: Chocolate Frogs (wizard card included) and colorful gummy Jelly Slugs.

» Know how to bake? Bring to life some of those treats that you’d never heard of but that the Hogwarts kids seemed to eat all the time. Treacle tarts and pumpkin pasties are totally real and totally makeable. Get going!

» Turn your home bar into the Three Broomsticks with magic-inspired beverages. The internet is full of butterbeer recipes containing everything from butterscotch schnapps to brown sugar to cream soda to actual melted butter—get your potions master on and find one you love. If you’re more of a firewhiskey person, Fireball should fit the bill. And for a non-boozy option (that you can definitely booze up, if you want), the company behind Virgil’s Root Beer makes a Butterscotch Beer they say is brewed at the “Flying Cauldron” in “Hogsbreath, England.” Find it at reedsinc.com.



A model of Hogwarts Castle at the Harry Potter Studio Tour in London
GETTY IMAGES FILE



Rupert Grint, Emma Watson and Daniel Radcliffe in ‘Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire’

Take a magical trip

» While you can still hold out hope for your Hogwarts letter, these days you can also take matters into your own hands and go there yourself. Burn a few vacation days on a trip to The Wizarding World of Harry Potter at Universal Studios parks in Florida or California, where you can visit our favorite castle, pick up a wand, sip J.K. Rowling-approved butterbeer and much more.

» Go all-out YOLO and plan a “Harry Potter”-themed trip to England. In London, pretend to run through a wall at King’s Cross Station and try to snag tickets to “Harry Potter and the Cursed Child.” Check out Christ Church at the University of Oxford, the inspiration for Hogwarts’ Great Hall, then see the real thing at Warner Bros. Studios Leavesden, the films’ production home, which now hosts a permanent “Harry Potter” studio tour. And if you head way north, almost to Scotland, you can visit Alnwick Castle, which was Hogwarts itself in the first two movies.

Get your Hermione on

» The girl who made it cool to do well in school would probably still be standing over your shoulder today if you knew her IRL, encouraging you (or, to be honest, pestering you) to check out some personal enrichment classes, download an educational app or just [put your library card to good use](#). You do have a library card, right?

And above all, do good

» From S.P.E.W. to Dumbledore’s Army to the Order of the Phoenix to good old Neville Longbottom and J.K. Rowling herself, the series gave us countless role models who taught us the importance of standing up for ourselves and others and working hard to do what’s right. Make them proud by being kind to others and by finding a cause you believe in and dedicating some of your time or money to it. What’s more grown-up than that?

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movies

Eddie Redmayne and Katherine Waterston in 'Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them'



★★★★★ **FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM**
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That familiar magic, in a new, mature world



Lauren Chval

» laurenchval@redyechicago.com
» @lchval

No matter how old I get, no matter how much time goes by, no matter how many commercial grabs for my money (seriously, there are going to be five of these?), the sight of the WB logo floating through ominous clouds to the sound of that John Williams score always

gives me goosebumps. There's certainly a danger of diluting the magic by returning to the well, but J.K. Rowling's first screenwriting effort, "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them," creates its own, more adult world with just enough winks of familiarity.

What happens?

In 1926, Newt Scamander (Eddie Redmayne) ventures from England to America with a case full of magical creatures. He's working on his book, "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them," and wants to return one of the beasts to its rightful home in Arizona. He gets side-tracked in New York City when Jacob (Dan Fogler), a No-Maj (Muggle), accidentally picks up his case and lets a couple of creatures loose. Newt and Jacob get picked up by Tina Goldstein (Katherine Waterston), a disgraced Auror, and also meet her sister, Queenie (Alison Sudol). But something other than Newt's beasts is terrorizing the city, and some are afraid it has to do with the rise of

the dark wizard Gellert Grindelwald.

What's good?

Rowling skillfully weaves her various storylines, along with the old and the new. "Fantastic Beasts" is funnier and more mature than any of the previous eight "Potter" films, which makes sense considering she's working with adult characters. She's smart to include both a Brit (Newt) and a Muggle (Jacob) so that explaining things feels natural, and there's still wonderment at displays of magic. Director David Yates hasn't lost his immersive touch—when the crew steps into the American ministry, the thrill of magical discovery is still there. The four main characters are all perfectly cast, but Redmayne's mix of sheepish and mischievous is a delight to watch.

What's bad?

It's hard to follow up "Harry Potter," which had a richer backstory and felt more personal than "Fantastic Beasts." The spark isn't quite as powerful as it once was. The film also suffers from pacing issues—there are a lot of shenanigans involving capturing the beasts, taking away from the much more interesting magical danger that's unfolding. Finally, it's odd to see a Rowling film succumb to the superhero movie cliché of a finale that involves the destruction of New York City.

Final verdict

It's not Hogwarts, but Rowling still has some magic in her.

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Striking and well-acted, but just not captivating

Lauren Chval
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It is no surprise that “Nocturnal Animals” is visually arresting—it’s the product of Tom Ford, a fashion designer by trade. Every shot—from Los Angeles homes to Texas landscapes to Amy Adams’ face—is striking. But “Nocturnal Animals” is all gloss and no effect, wasting its time on uninteresting plot instead of truly unmasking its characters.

What happens?

Disillusioned with her life as an LA gallerist, Susan Morrow (Adams) receives a novel manuscript from her first husband, Edward (Jake Gyllenhaal). Susan left Edward nearly two decades ago to be with her current husband, Hutton (Armie Harmer), but their marriage is in a state of disconnect. While Hutton is away on business, Susan reads Edward’s novel about a violent tragedy that

befalls a Texas family, causing her to relive her own mistakes.

What’s good?

The film is undeniably gorgeous. Visually, “Nocturnal Animals” feels more like art than your average movie, and that affects everything from shots to makeup. The story of Susan’s history plays with some interesting concepts, like feeling ungrateful in unhappiness and how well we really know ourselves. The real draw, however, is the performances, because everyone brings their A game. Adams is a treasure, Gyllenhaal commits, Aaron Taylor-Johnson is convincingly crazy as the novel’s antagonist and Laura Linney steals her one scene as Susan’s mother.

What’s bad?

Foreboding music suggests that “Nocturnal Animals” considers itself to be in the same vein as films like “Basic Instinct” and “Fatal Attraction.” Unfortunately, without even a



Amy Adams in ‘Nocturnal Animals’

shred of sex, it’s hard for a movie to be sexy. Susan’s story is interesting enough, but Ford passes it up to dive deep into Edward’s novel, which has considerably less nuance. Past, present and novel are all woven together, but not enough ties them together, and Ford

never spends enough time on the things that deserve it.

FINAL VERDICT

A sexy thriller that is neither sexy nor thrilling.

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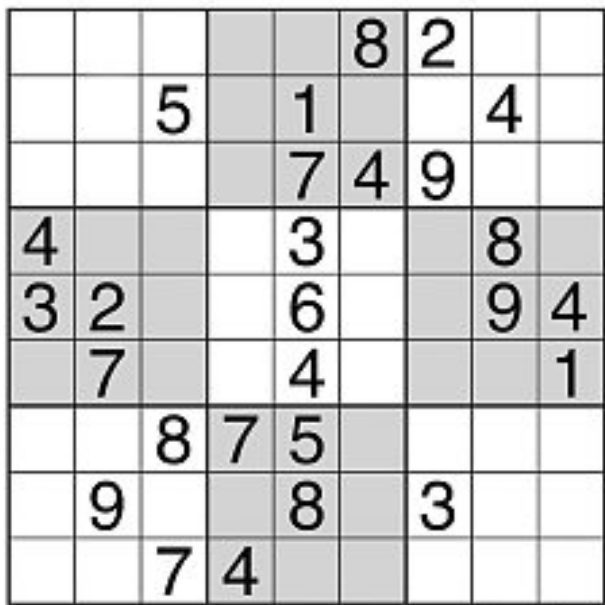
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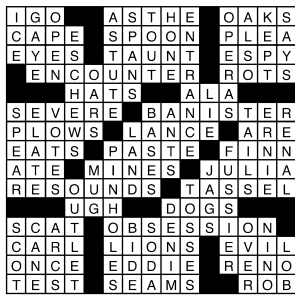
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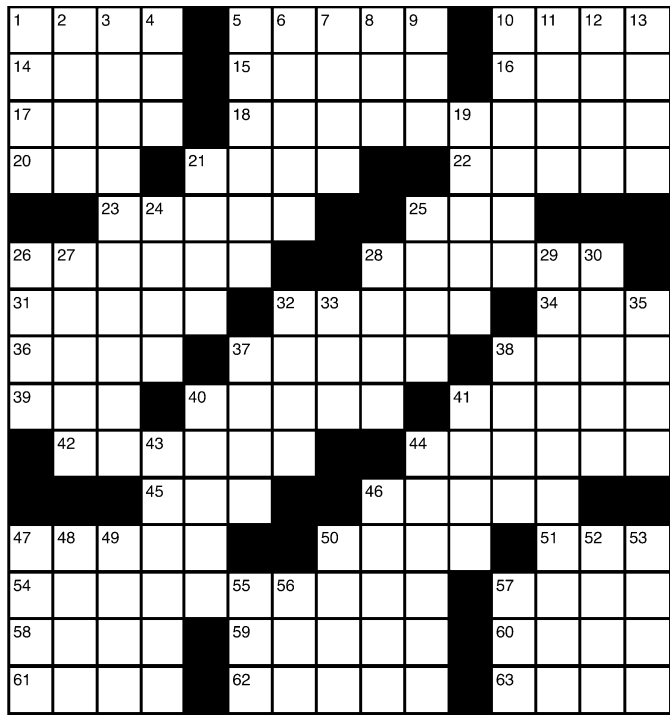
THURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

**ACROSS**

- 1 Uncertain
- 5 Holler
- 10 Arthur of tennis
- 14 Doesn't _ for; dislikes
- 15 Ballroom dance
- 16 Gangster
- 17 Huge birds
- 18 Mesmerizing
- 20 Moines, IA
- 21 Give up land
- 22 Pig's remarks
- 23 Flatterer
- 25 _-tac-toe
- 26 Sandal parts
- 28 Large crowds
- 31 _al folks?
- 32 Cinnamon or nutmeg
- 34 Abdomen
- 36 Linkletter and Garfunkel
- 37 Pocket bottle
- 38 Actor Duhamel
- 39 Buzzing insect
- 40 Tries to lose
- 41 Caff_ _; drink at Starbucks
- 42 Actor _ James Olmos
- 44 Provide shelter for
- 45 Anger
- 46 Rising time, for many
- 47 Wonderland visitor
- 50 _rees
- 51 Fight result, for short
- 54 Barnes & Noble, for one
- 57 Broad smile
- 58 Pigeon coop
- 59 San _ _ CA
- 60 Heap
- 61 Celebrity
- 62 Seamstress
- 63 Play divisions

DOWN

- 1 Frosted
- 2 Renown
- 3 Disappointed & discouraged
- 4 Affirmative
- 5 Spirited horses
- 6 Easy to reach
- 7 in a lifetime; very rare
- 8 Word of disgust
- 9 a halt
- 10 Loft spaces
- 11 Part of the lower leg
- 12 Good-looking young man
- 13 Breakfast order



TODAY IN THE YEAR...

1883: The United States and Canada adopted a system of Standard Time zones.

1959: “Ben-Hur,” the Biblical-era spectacle, had its world premiere in New York.

1996: Onetime CIA station chief Harold J. Nicholson was charged with selling top secrets to the Russians for more than \$120,000. He later pleaded guilty to espionage and was sentenced to 23 and 1/2 years in prison; he was spared a life sentence for cooperating with investigators.

- | | | | | | |
|----|---------------------------|----|--------------------------|----|-------------------|
| 19 | Clamor | 32 | Snow toy | 46 | Long attack |
| 21 | Beanies | 33 | TV's Sajak | 47 | Basics |
| 24 | "... peas, beans and bar- | 35 | Rather ... instead of | 48 | Pillage: growl... |
| | ley plow..." | 37 | Blaze | 49 | Greek letter |
| 25 | Small nail | 38 | One of many for a stand- | 50 | Piloted |
| 26 | Pierce | | up comedian | 52 | Scottish skirt |
| 27 | One and two | 40 | Shows courage | 53 | Dollar bills |
| 28 | Feel the loss of | 41 | Dallas team, for short | 55 | Bradley & Koch |
| 29 | Selfish | 43 | Rattan | 56 | Recline |
| 30 | Cold rice with raw fish | 44 | Great fear | 57 | Transcript avg. |

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